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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of Ralph R. Sowka of Palatine on Wednesday, March 15, 2006; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Sowka was born on July 11, 1921, in Chicago to Michael Sowka and Frieda (nee Lukow) Sowka; he valiantly served his country during World War II as a U.S. Navy Seabee; he served in the European-African-Middle Eastern-American Theater and was stationed in the Azores Islands; he also served in the Naval Reserves following World War II; and

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WHEREAS, Prior to his retirement, Mr. Sowka was the service manager for Nickey Chevrolet in Chicago for nearly 30 years; he was active in the Nickey Chevrolet Racing Division; and

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WHEREAS, He was a judge of election in Palatine for many years; and

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WHEREAS, He was a former Vestry member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church of Palatine, where he and his wife, Audrey, and their children began attending in 1954, and was a member of the St. Philip's Green Thumbs; he was a life member of Palatine Masonic Lodge #314 A.F. & A.M., former member of the VFW, and former member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; and

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WHEREAS, He had many hobbies, including piloting single engine airplanes, building modified high performance cars, collecting antique cars and parts, and gardening; and

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WHEREAS, The passing of Ralph R. Sowka has been deeply felt by many, especially his wife, Audrey (nee Smith); his children, Randall (Amy) Sowka Kent, Clifford (Becky) Sowka, and Melanie (John) Diedrich; his grandchildren, Brooke Kent, Willow

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1 (Michael) Zeman, Philip Dale Kent, Chamberlin (Joseph)
2 DeWitte, and Leslie Diedrich; his great-grandchildren, Daniel
3 Zeman and Kyle Zeman; and his many nieces, nephews, and
4 cousins; he was the dear brother of the late Phyllis (James)
5 Groat and Audrey (Carl) Rossa; he was also preceded in death by
6 his parents and his dear cousin, Sister Rita Marie, O.S.F.;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
10 Ralph R. Sowka, and we extend our sincere condolences to his
11 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest
15 sympathy.